

Page 2. Line 24. after "above" delete "the solution defined in Claim 1" and insert --an apparatus in accordance with the invention--.

Page 4, Lines 9-10, after "solution" delete "is defined in Claim 6: in accordance with this solution" and insert --consists of--.

Page 4, Line 13. after "tip" delete "defined in Claim 2".

In the Claims

Cancel claims 9-23 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 24 as follows:

24. (Amended) Trocar sleeve for endoscopic applications, comprising:
an elongate part [including] having at least one passage for insertion of an instrument selected from the group consisting of an endoscope, scissors and the like, and
pivotal parts formed at a distal section of the elongate part, each having a blade end portion, [adopted to be titled forward in a piercing position] the pivotal parts converging toward one another in [the] a piercing position, wherein the blade end portions of the pivotal parts [to] form a pointed tip which permits the [piercing] cutting of the body wall without an additional trocar mandrel.

Please add the following new claims as indicated:

25. The trocar sleeve defined in claim 24 wherein the distal section of the elongate part has a plurality of spring elements between the elongate part and the pivotal parts for biasing the pivotal parts toward the piercing position.

26. The trocar sleeve defined in claim 25 wherein the spring elements bias the pivotal parts away from one another to an operative position upon displacement of